



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 26 September 2007

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- *The Associated Press* reports that Exelon Corp. will end its contract with Wackenhut Corp., which had provided security at the Peach Bottom nuclear power plant in south-central Pennsylvania. Wackenhut security officers were caught on videotape sleeping while on duty in the “ready room,” which is just steps away from the nuclear reactors. (See item [8](#))
- *CNN* reports that an FBI investigation has revealed that Homeland Security computers were hacked into and that “significant amounts of information” was sent to Chinese language websites. Lawmakers said dozens of DHS computers were compromised and the incidents “were not noticed until months after the initial attacks.” (See item [30](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors](#), [Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical:** **ELEVATED**,
Cyber: **ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *September 25, Boston Business Journal* – (National) **MIT teams with BP on clean energy.** The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and British Petroleum (BP) announced their collaboration to explore new ways to “convert coal and coal-like energies into liquid and gasified fuels and chemicals while reducing coal’s notorious carbon dioxide emissions.” The partnership is the first step in MIT’s Energy Initiative started in 2006 to develop alternative technologies to traditional fossil fuel methods. The new program will be financed by BP,

which will offer ten fellowships per year for five years. BP is also financing research projects conducted at the University of California-Berkeley and California Institute of Technology, as well as at other universities in the United Kingdom, China and Russia.

Source: <http://boston.bizjournals.com/boston/stories/2007/09/24/daily13.html>

2. *September 24, CNNMoney* – (National) **Waste Management, Inc. announces major waste-based alternative energy initiative.** Waste Management, Inc. (WM) announced a major plan to expand its landfill gas to energy (LFGTE) facilities. The ambitious agenda includes 60 energy facilities across the country over the next five years bringing WM's capacity to "more than 700 megawatts of clean renewable energy – enough to power 700,000 homes or replace over eight million barrels of oil per year." WM is currently the largest landfill operator in the nation and its LFGTE projects are considered to "provide dependable base load power, in contrast to the intermittent nature of other renewable energy sources."

Source: <http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/prnewswire/CLM02424092007-1.htm>

3. *September 24, AFP* – (International) **Yemen signs nuclear energy deal with US firm.** Powered Corp., a Houston-based firm, signed a \$15 billion contract with Yemen to build five nuclear reactors over 10 years. The first stage of the project includes a \$3 million feasibility study, which is expected to be released in the first half of next year. Construction of the first reactor is scheduled to start in early 2009 according to statements released by Yemen's Energy and Electricity minister. The official added that the forecasted total capacity of the reactors is 5,000 megawatts, "in accordance with international conventions and laws and in keeping with the guidelines of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)." Yemen's president also reiterated the country's intent to use nuclear energy solely for peaceful purposes. Yemen has experienced a severe power shortage since the mid 1990's, when production fell to an average of 800 megawatts of electricity.

Source: <http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5jGyhkloKVOKjA-R3T0hIPOmIKgug>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry

4. *September 25, KCRG* – (Iowa) **Chemical leak on train car.** Union Pacific (UP) officials say someone noticed a black cloud escaping from the top of a white train car at an Oskaloosa crossing on Monday. The train was leaking hydrochloric acid. UP officials said not much acid was spilled, but police ordered an evacuation nonetheless. Witnesses say a pipe on top of the car might be to blame. UP officials are investigating.

Source: <http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/9970296.html>

5. *September 24, PR Newswire* – (National) **Pesticide legislation wins congressional approval after industry and environmentalists work together in unique effort.** Consumer Specialty Products Association (CSPA), CropLife America and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) all called Monday's passage of the Pesticide Registration Improvement Renewal Act (S 1983) a victory for cooperative public policy development. The renewal acts on the original Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA), which passed in 2003 thanks to the work of a unique coalition consisting of the registrant community and environmental and labor organizations. The same coalition strongly supported the renewal of the Act that was set to

expire in 2008. The original act provided approximately \$200 million dollars in fees to increase and stabilize funding for EPA Office of Pesticide Programs. The renewal legislation will extend the assessment of those fees in industry through 2012 while adding significant funding stability.

Source: <http://sev.prnewswire.com/environmental-services/20070924/NYM14424092007-1.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste

6. *September 25, Guardian Unlimited* – (Nevada) **U.S. nuclear dump plan in danger after seismic shock.** The most expensive public works project in the US was today in disarray after it emerged that a planned giant nuclear dump would be located on a fault line. Rock samples from deep within Yucca Mountain, in Nevada, showed that the fault runs directly beneath the site where the U.S. federal government planned to store 70,000 tons of highly radioactive waste. More than \$8 billion has already been spent on the \$58 billion project, which had been due to open in 2017, but the proposals – approved by President Bush in 2002 – may now have to be redrawn. Samples taken from 76 meters below the surface of the surrounding mountains, which are around 90 miles north-west of Las Vegas, revealed that the Bow Ridge fault passes hundreds of meters to the east of where scientists believed it lay. The measurements were backed up by U.S. Geological Survey maps. The fault is now thought to run beneath a storage pad where spent radioactive fuel canisters would be cooled before being sealed in a maze of tunnels inside the mountain. The Department of Energy did not comment on the claims, but project officials said they were continuing to develop repository design, construction and operating plans in preparation for applying next year for a license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/usa/story/0,2176842,00.html>

7. *September 25, Dallas Morning News* – (Texas) **Nuclear reactor licenses sought for S. Texas.** NRG Energy and CPS Energy filed with regulators Monday for licenses to build two new nuclear reactors at the South Texas Project, the first nuclear power application in nearly 30 years. NRG, of New Jersey, and CPS, a utility owned by the city of San Antonio, plan to spend about \$5.2 billion to expand their Bay City plant, which currently has two nuclear reactors. The license application is the first since the 1979 accident at the Three Mile Island power plant in Pennsylvania halted plans for new reactors in the U.S. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission expects applications for about two dozen new licenses in the next couple of years as power companies attempt to take advantage of federal loan guarantees for nuclear reactors.

Source:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/latestnews/stories/092507dnnatnuclear.106e63da3.html>

8. *September 25, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Pennsylvania nuclear plant fires security firm over dozing officers video.** Exelon Corp. said Monday it will end its contract with a company that provides security at the Peach Bottom nuclear power plant in south-central Pennsylvania after security officers were caught on videotape nodding off or sleeping on the job. Video footage taken two to six months ago showed the Wackenhut Corp. guards napping

while sitting on chairs in a “ready room,” which is used as a break room, Exelon Generation’s COO said in a statement. The ready room, just steps away from the reactors, is so named because the officers are supposed to be at the ready to protect and defend the facility against a terrorist attack.

Source: http://wcbstv.com/local/local_story_267215946.html;

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *September 24, Webwire*– (National) **Boeing delivers first production EA-18G growler to U.S. Navy.** The Boeing Company announced its first EA-18G Growler delivery to the U.S. Navy. The aircraft designed for airborne electronic attacks (AEA) features “the Super Hornet’s proven airframe and mission systems with a next-generation airborne electronic attack suite.” The Hornet frame facilitates “an advanced AEA platform at a fraction of the cost and time of a completely new aircraft.” The newly created aircraft will be tested at the Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland, prior to entering service.

Source: <http://www.webwire.com/ViewPressRel.asp?aId=48674>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

10. *September 25, Consumer Affairs* – (Arkansas) **Arkansas AG probes concert ticket scalping.** Arkansas residents complained to authorities after tickets for a concert featuring a popular singer were sold out on the internet in a matter of minutes. Following an investigation into the case, Arkansas’ attorney general discovered that “many of the tickets intended to be sold directly to Arkansas consumers were diverted to as yet unidentified bulk purchasers.” The official also noted that there are allegations of companies providing a software product which allows the purchaser to hack into the Ticketmaster online system and block access to tickets at the site. Because consumers were forced to purchase tickets from overpriced sources, the GA also warned the state’s residents that many of the tickets offered on the internet from unauthorized sites might be forged. Unfortunately, he added, “it is difficult to enforce the ticket scalping laws with respect to Internet transactions where the seller may be located in another state, or even another country, and may, in fact, be anonymous to the purchaser.”

Source: http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2007/09/ar_ticketmaster.html

11. *September 24, WSAW* – (National) **Check washing.** The U.S. Department of Justice announced that scams involving check washing cost Americans \$815 million a year. The process involves erasing the ink using household chemicals, without affecting the signature. The check is then re-written for a different recipient with a higher amount of money. To prevent check washing, experts advise the use of special pens that do not fade when checks are washed.

Source: <http://www.wsaw.com/home/headlines/9960841.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation and Border Security Sector

12. *September 25, CNNMoney* – (National) **Approval for methanol fuel cells and cartridges on airplanes proposed by US Department of Transportation.** VIASPACE Inc. announced that the U.S. Department of Transportation had released a proposal “allowing passengers to carry and use micro fuel cells and methanol fuel cartridges on board airplanes to power their notebook computers and other consumer electronic devices.” If the rule is approved, the U.S. will join Canada, China, Japan and the United Kingdom among other countries already allowing the use of such devices. The disposable methanol fuel cartridges provide the liquid energy source, which the fuel cell converts into electricity used to power a notebook computer or mobile phone. The cartridges are made of recyclable materials, but due to international safety regulations cannot be refilled by the consumer.
Source: <http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/prnewswire/LATU07025092007-1.htm>
13. *September 24, Business Travel News Online* – (National) **TSA says no relaxing ban on liquid.** The U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) assistant secretary confirmed in a public statement that the agency is exploring different sources from which they might obtain a reliable technology capable of detecting dangerous liquids hidden in baggage at airports. However, the official said that although the agency lifted its ban on cigarette lighters, the liquid restrictions will continue for at least one more year, or until the necessary equipment is ready to be tested. The TSA lifted the ban on cigarette lighters because “they are among the least effective methods of activating incendiary or explosive devices, and the amount of energy screeners were using to find them was distracting them from real threats, such as liquids,” said the official.
Source:
http://www.btnmag.com/businesstravelnews/headlines/frontpage_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1003645017
14. *September 24, Government Computer News* – (National) **TSA approves four products for airport screening.** The Transportation Security Administration announced the first products approved for airport screening programs. After testing seven products, the TSA approved two which combine keypads, fingerprint scanners and smart-card scanners, and two featuring fingerprint sensors. Restricted participation might have been an indirect result of the stringent requirements imposed on vendors in a 140-page manual. Some of the specifications included a 99.86 percent operational availability rate and a 10-hour annual limitation for maintenance. The TSA initiated the program three years ago when it was asked to establish a “qualified products list” for airport screening programs.
Source: http://www.gcn.com/print/26_25/45082-1.html
15. *September 24, AP* – (New Jersey) **Engineers: New Jersey infrastructure crumbling.** The American Society of Civil Engineers inspecting New Jersey’s infrastructure stated that the state will have to invest significant amounts of money to rehabilitate many of its transportation and water systems. Although the report did not mention any immediate dangers to residents, it found that, among other things, “about half the state’s roadways are considered deficient, the state has 310 aging dams that will cost \$300 million to repair and about \$60 million more must be spent annually to fix decaying public drinking water systems.” When asked for a response, a spokesman for New Jersey’s governor said that “the administration wasn’t surprised by the

findings,” and that “the governor has spoken frequently about the need to upgrade the state's infrastructure, and has done everything possible amid state fiscal woes to protect public safety and health.”

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/fn/5160983.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *September 25, Memphis Business Journal* – (Arkansas) **FedEx Freight East opens Harrison expansion.** FedEx Freight East Inc. opened its North Tower addition Friday in Harrison, Ark. The 90,000-square-foot addition cost around \$12 million and gives FedEx Freight East a total of 303,645 square feet. The additional space will provide work areas for up to 500 employees, the president of FedEx Freight said in a release.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/memphis/stories/2007/09/24/daily3.html>

17. *September 24, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Anthrax drill is met with relief and skepticism.** On Monday, health and postal authorities carried out a drill simulating an emergency response to a terrorist anthrax attack, in which postal carriers distributed prophylactic antibiotics. If the drill is an accurate reflection, antibiotic pills could be dispatched to 23,000 households in just under six hours, which was far faster than authorities anticipated, though they noted that the drill took place on Sunday when traffic is lighter. The federal government paid for yesterday's experiment, which cost under \$100,000, authorities said.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/09/24/anthrax_drill_is_met_with_relief_and_skepticism/

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

18. *September 25, Agence France Presse* – (National) **Soaring corn prices hit U.S. cattle farmer.** Cattle farmers are struggling to pay for traditional feed as the price of corn soars due to increased demand for alternative sources of energy, especially corn-based ethanol. Corn has traditionally made up 40 percent of the diet of cattle at the Agri Beef Company in Idaho, but earlier this year the firm decided to cease relying on the grain after the price per bushel doubled. The ethanol boom has helped boost the bushel price for corn at a time when the U.S. Department of Agriculture predicts more acres of corn than ever will be planted in such Corn Belt states as Illinois, and when USDA projections show commodities such as soybeans are poised to be displaced. Cattle farmers say the dual challenges of a surge in ethanol production and a strong export demand for corn means everyone from breeders along rural byways to consumers in urban centers will see price increases.

Source: <http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5hffB15TMTcGlkkDdfSKOOrqjG6aA>

19. *September 24, CattleNetwork.com* – (National) **USDA to examine health management in beef industry.** The USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) will conduct a study, called the *Beef 2007-08 Study*, from October through November in which they

will survey selected large beef operations in 24 states. The study is “a grassroots effort to gather health data on America’s beef farms” in order “to help further the understanding of potential disease threats.” Beef producers will be asked to provide data regarding herd management, herd health, disease prevention practices and numerous other aspects of their operation. The *Beef 2007-08 Study* will identify production practices and health measures that promote efficient production and improve product quality.

Source: <http://www.cattlenetwork.com/content.asp?contentid=162710>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

20. *September 24, Environment News Service* – (National) **Overwhelming vote for Water Resources Act answers Bush veto threat.** The U.S. Senate on Monday passed the Water Resources Development Act conference report by a vote of 81-12. The Senate passage follows House approval in August by a vote of 381-40. The bill authorizes flood control, navigation, and ecosystem restoration projects. The law now goes to President George W. Bush for his signature, but the administration has signaled that the president will veto the bill. Still, there is thought to be strong bipartisan support for the Water Resources Development Act, WRDA, making a veto override possible. The legislation authorizes nearly \$7 billion for wetlands restoration and flood control projects to put Louisiana on the path to Category 5 storm protection, and authorizes dozens of other critical water projects nationwide.

Source: <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/sep2007/2007-09-24-05.asp>

21. *September 25, New York Daily News* – (New York) **Millions expected to be saved in treatment merger.** Long Beach and three other municipalities have decided to join forces with Nassau County, which will take over the sewage treatment operations in a move expected to save taxpayers millions of dollars, officials announced Tuesday. A Nassau County Executive will unveil the merger plan at a morning press conference at the Lawrence Sewage Treatment Plant in the village of Lawrence. The village of Cedarhurst and the city of Glen Cove have also agreed to let the county take over their collection and treatment of wastewater. The city manager of Long Beach said the Long Beach facility would have required as much as \$5 million of renovations in the coming years to meet more stringent federal EPA guidelines calling for stricter standards of ammonia and nitrite removal from the plant's discharge.

Source: http://www.nydailynews.com/boroughs/2007/09/25/2007-09-25_millions_expected_to_be_saved_in_treatme.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

22. *September 25, VOA News* – (International) **WHO confirms 8 new Ebola cases in Congo.** A World Health Organization (WHO) spokeswoman in the Democratic Republic of Congo said that eight new cases of Ebola have been identified there, raising to 17 the total number of cases since the new outbreak was identified earlier in September. The WHO is calling this the “first major resurgence [of the disease] in years.” Officials are hopeful that the new mobile laboratories, which they said should be ready in the next couple of days, will help speed up diagnosis of the highly contagious disease. Without the mobile labs, samples are being sent

abroad for analysis.

Source: <http://www.voanews.com/english/2007-09-25-voa16.cfm>

23. *September 25, PR Newswire* – (Indiana) **Child’s kidneys fail as E. coli outbreak continues.**

Parents confirmed that a 6-year-old first-grader in Galena, Indiana now needs dialysis for her failing kidneys after an outbreak of E. coli among at least half a dozen children. Health officials said six students have confirmed E. coli infections and there are five more cases that “fit the profile” but have yet to be confirmed through testing. The school has been thoroughly cleaned, officials said, but parents are still concerned about the safety of their children. So far there are many rumors but no definitive word on where the bacteria originated.

Source: <http://www.wlky.com/news/14190459/detail.html>

24. *September 24, PR Newswire* – (National) **Three congresswomen introduce health tracking legislation.** On Monday, three congresswomen introduced the Coordinated Environmental Public Health Network Act of 2007, which would establish a national public health tracking network to allow for the detection and identification of possible connections between adverse health effects and environmental hazards, and increase funding for locally-based pilot projects to address environmental health concerns. It would also increase funding for bio-monitoring work at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which tracks exposure levels to common chemicals. If the legislation passes, the following network would, when fully operational, coordinate national, state and local efforts to inform communities, public health officials, researchers and policymakers of potential environmental health risks, and integrate this information with other parts of the public health system. The legislation is supported by over 40 health and environmental groups.

Source: <http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/09-24-2007/0004668932&EDATE=>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Facilities Sector

25. *September 25, Rutland Herald* – (Vermont) **Fire scare clears out state office building.** The Asa Bloomer State Office Building was evacuated today in Rutland, Vermont, after smoke detectors were set off by smoke coming from food burning in a microwave. Firefighters responded to the alarm and reset the smoke detectors. No injuries were reported.

Source:

<http://www.rutlandherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070925/NEWS01/709250330/1002/NEWS01>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

26. *September 25, Reuters* – (National) **FACTBOX-Safety concerns in U.S. coal mining.** A Reuters report published on Tuesday detailed an increased number of accidents in coal mines during the last decade. According to the report, 2006 was the ‘deadliest year’ in a decade. On average, 33 miners died each year between 1997 and 2006. Congress, mining companies, and

federal regulators were prompted to work on safety regulations for the mining industry by a number of fatal incidents in 2006, but have yet to pass new legislation.

Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKN2431149820070925>

27. *September 24, AP* – (National) **Financial institutions to undergo test.** More than 2,700 financial institutions across the country, including banks, credit unions, security firms and insurance companies, started a three-week exercise designed by the Treasury Department to assess critical infrastructure protection. According to the scenario, travelers coming from Europe spread bird flu among humans in the United States. Banks have to deal with a 25 percent absenteeism rate among their workers which will increase to 40 percent in week two. Scientists in charge of sketching the details of the exercise projected “how the stock market will behave as well as what the value of the dollar and various commodities such as oil will be doing.” Other effects of a pandemic outbreak mentioned in the scenario are that “cash withdrawals from ATM machines are expected to rise sharply and getting the machines refilled will present problems, and shrinking Internet bandwidths as more and more people try to work from home.” At the end of the exercise, Treasury will release a report detailing how institutions performed and the gaps that need to be filled. The program was prompted by President Bush’s 2006 requirement for government agencies to establish efficient contingency plans in case of a pandemic outbreak. Earlier this month, the Government Accountability Office issued a statement criticizing the administration for not implementing programs focused on agencies’ responsibilities in a pandemic.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iEfRcoFMGX3XzWSPYIU4YqrngqJA>

28. *September 24, Department of Homeland Security* – (National) **U.S. Department of Homeland Security conducts largest counterterrorism exercise to date.** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security will conduct the largest counterterrorism exercise to date in collaboration with other agencies and the governments of Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom. The plan will be implemented in Arizona, Oregon, and the U.S. territory of Guam from October 15-19 and will include 15,000 participants from all levels of government, international partners and the private sector in a scenario involving radiological dispersal device attacks. “Exercises like TOPOFF (Top Officials) help test response capabilities at all levels, strengthen national preparedness and deepen international coordination,” said the department’s secretary. The exercise was designed to focus on five areas: prevention, intelligence and investigation, incident management, public information, and evaluation. For more information on TOPOFF 4, visit the Department of Homeland Security Web site at www.dhs.gov/topoff4.

Source: http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1190667427078.shtm

29. *September 24, FEMA* – (National) **Federal agencies monitor gulf storm, stand ready to respond.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) led a precautionary coordination program with other federal agencies aimed at monitoring an expected tropical depression affecting communities along the Gulf coast. “FEMA is not waiting for a storm to make landfall to begin our coordination with the states and our federal partners and non-profit agencies in response,” said a FEMA administrator. Government agencies ready to supply their resources and assets are the Department of Defense, NORTHCOM, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Health and Human Services, the American Red Cross, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Guard.

Source: http://media-newswire.com/release_1054725.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology

30. *September 25, CNN* – (National) **Investigators: Homeland Security computers hacked.** Hackers compromised dozens of Department of Homeland Security computers, moving sensitive information to Chinese-language Web sites, congressional investigators said Monday. Investigators blamed Unisys, a government contractor, saying the firm hired to protect DHS computers tried to hide the incidents from the department. The FBI is investigating the incidents, a congressional staffer said, and two members of Congress have asked the department's inspector general to also launch an investigation. "The results of our [committee] investigation suggest that the department is the victim not only of cyber attacks initiated by foreign entities, but of incompetent and possibly illegal activity by the contractor charged with maintaining security on its networks," said two congressional representatives in a written statement. The lawmakers said committee investigators found dozens of DHS computers were compromised and the incidents "were not noticed until months after the initial attacks." The extent of the damage is unclear, but a House Homeland Security Committee staff member said the hackers "took significant amounts of information."
Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2007/US/09/24/homelandsecurity.computers/>

31. *September 25, CNet News* – (National) **Trojan attack targets top executives.** Security company MessageLabs reported that 1,100 e-mails containing malware-infected RTF (rich text file) attachments were recorded over a 16-hour period this month. Four separate waves appeared between September 13 and 14, the company said. "All (the e-mails) were going after (top-level) management. The e-mails included the company name in the subject field, purporting to be a recruitment company. The top-level nature of the targets clearly indicates that the attackers are after information," the MessageLabs representative said, "but the greater concern is the social-engineering technique used to spread the Trojan-harboring e-mail. The way that this works has the potential to be so effective. You are getting that top-down approach – if they forward that e-mail on internally, that e-mail is coming from a trusted source," he said. Another security expert recently said that the perfect attack would be a zero-day attack using a rootkit-cloaked Trojan sent to an H.R. manager who, due to company policy, would be compelled to open the document. He added that there is little that organizations can do to protect against these threat types besides educating users of the risks, because banning the receipt of common file types is impractical.
Source: http://www.news.com/Trojan-attack-targets-top-executives/2100-7349_3-6209930.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

32. *September 25, New York Daily News* – (New York) **Reverse-911 a good call.** New York City is considering a reverse-911 system that would allow officials to alert the public to emergencies and transmit needed information via telephone. The City's Deputy Mayor reported to the City Council last week that a pilot reverse-911 program could be "ready to go" early next year, adding that the city needs "a redundant system that will cover all bases," including an e-mail emergency notification and a text-messaging program along with the telephone system. He said a pilot e-mail system would be up and running at the end of next month and a text-messaging pilot by the end of the year.

Source: http://www.nydailynews.com/boroughs/2007/09/25/2007-09-25_reverse911_a_good_call.html

33. *September 25, News Week* – (New York) **The latest contraband.** In recent years contraband cell phones have become a hot commodity in prisons across the country, and they are posing a serious threat to security, authorities say, especially as phones get smaller and offer technologically advanced features. In Florida, which has the country's third-largest prison system, 109 cell phones have been confiscated over the past year, a 25-30 percent increase from the previous year, and the number is expected to keep growing, according to Florida's assistant secretary for institutions. Seven cell phones were recently confiscated in a major drug bust in the Sunshine State's prison system; investigators believe inmates communicated on cell phones to smuggle crack cocaine and marijuana into one of Florida's higher-security units through prisoner squads working on roads. Contraband phones were found in the prison, at the work camp and in transport vehicles running to and from work sites. Elsewhere, construction materials, sneaky visitors and corrupt prison guards have proved to be reliable means of entry; in New York smugglers have even hidden phone parts inside old typewriters to evade X-ray scrutiny. Prison officials are warning states that the security risk will continue to grow as cell phones shrink in size and advance technologically. Tiny phones equipped with cameras, Internet access and GPS navigation can help orchestrate prison-break plots, drug trafficking, gang violence and harassment of former victims.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/20958664/site/newsweek/>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

34. *September 25, Bloomberg* – (National) **U.S. economy: Consumer confidence slumps, home sales decline.** Consumer confidence slumped to the lowest level in almost two years and home sales weakened, threatening U.S. household spending. The Conference Board's index of consumer confidence fell more than forecast in September, to 99.8 from 105.6. Additionally, the National Association of Realtors said August sales of previously owned houses dropped 4.3 percent and a separate index of home values fell the most in at least six years in July. Purchases of existing homes fell to an annual rate of 5.5 million, the fewest since August 2002, according to the Association. Sales dropped 13 percent compared with a year earlier and median home prices rose 0.2 percent to \$224,500. Home prices in 20 U.S. metropolitan areas fell 3.9 percent in the 12 months through July, according to the S&P/Case-Shiller home-price

index, which was also released today. The drop was the biggest since record keeping began in 2001, indicating the threat to consumer spending was rising even before credit markets seized up in August.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=a80Yqs4hl.Gc&refer=home>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

35. *September 25, The Buffalo News* – (New York) **McKinley Monument needs \$1 million in repairs.** The McKinley Monument in Niagara Square, Buffalo, New York needs about \$1 million worth of repairs, according to estimates by the city Public Works Department. Officials stressed that the monument in front of City Hall does not pose any safety hazards. Over the years, crews have performed stop-gap work to tighten joints and address other immediate concerns. Still, the monument will require more comprehensive repairs in the coming years. However, there may not be room in the budget for monument repairs. The Buffalo attorney who oversees a citizens panel that advises city officials on spending scarce funds for capital improvements said: “We have a lot of things that have to be addressed from an infrastructure standpoint, and we know we don’t have enough money to address all of them.”

Source: <http://www.buffalonews.com/cityregion/story/170116.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

36. *September 25, Vindy.com* – (Ohio) **Senate funds dam repairs.** The Water Resources Development Act Conference Report passed the Senate on Monday night 81-12, authorizing \$16 million for repairing the dam at Lower Girard Lake in Youngstown, an Ohio Senator announced. For years, the city has been under orders from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to either repair the dam, which was built in 1918, or tear it down because it is unsafe. The lake was drained several years ago to protect about 30 households downstream from a failure of the dam.

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[\[Return to top\]](#)

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